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WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 6, NO. 2 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JUNE 1995 ■ FREE

"When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses." Shirley Chisolm

The Lodoro vs The Fleetwood

No Comparison!

Teresa Jennings

Still! Still, they are without homes. This is unbelievable. And those who are frustrated with the lack of homes for those with low incomes are called radical? Give me a break! If you are not one of these and if you plan to sleep tonight in a warm, dry bed, I suggest you do something a little different. Try to search for a place in the Lacey/Tumwater/Olympia area to sleep outside. Some place that is not owned by someone, that is safe, where you will remain dry. You might do as many who do not have the luxury of a home do and sleep in your car if you have one. Then, the next time it rains, do it again. And every time it rains hereafter, sleep outside again. It's too bad we are moving in to the drier, warmer season, because your homeless experience is certain to be considerably less than real. Of course, those of us who have homes (myself included) will always have a hard time appreciating the full effect of homelessness unless we've been there. However, even a modest attempt at walking in a homeless person's shoes (even if only imaginatively) should move us all toward an appreciation for the situation of those without homes and the anger created by this community's foot dragging.

The current rendition is to now offer to trade the Fleetwood building for the Lodoro building at 3434 Martin Way. Why! Why trade the proposed 43 apartments of the Fleetwood for the 17 units of the Lodoro? Why trade a $1.5 million building for a $.25 million building (values are based on documents from Thurston County Assessor's Office)? Why trade a building convenient to Bread and Roses and other social service agencies for a 2-3 mile bus ride plus a $18/monthly or $1/daily bus pass? Why trade a solid brick building like the Fleetwood for a building with a moss-covered roof and a burned-out section, both aching for repair. Who is served by such a trade?! I am outraged at the portrayal of this trade as worthy.

Now, for the misinformation of the *Olympian*. First, housing women with children is not and never was an option under the restrictions of the grant application. No one disputes this need, but meeting the needs of single persons, men and women, does not stop us from meeting the needs of children. Second,

Why trade the proposed 43 apartments of the Fleetwood for the 17 units of the Lodoro? Why trade a $1.5 million building for a $.25 million building...

the Fleetwood has been vacant for eight years. Where have all the commercial entrepreneurs been? It is interesting that now when we have an opportunity to do something to house low income people, we get excited about this "lost opportunity". Third, a great disservice is rendered by casting the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) as uncooperative or failing to answer the questions. Sharon Lee, Director of LIHI, has worked very diligently to put forward a respectable proposal that is completely worthy of this community's support when we don't let misinformation and fear guide our decisions. I am certainly more comfortable with LIHI in the driver's seat than other leadership demonstrated around this problem, leadership which has found one excuse after another to throw roadblocks and insults toward the solution. As pointed out on innumerable occasions, it has been at least two years without any substantive plan for low-income individuals by the elected leadership in this community. It is time now for those in power to do the right thing. Let's get on with doing what needs to be done to make the Fleetwood building available to the homeless. And let's stop making spurious offers of vacuous trades. In the mean time, enjoy your nights experiencing homelessness, especially Bob, Shawn, and Dick.

More pictures on page 5

Farmworkers Set Wage Demand

Organizing Intensifies to Win 17¢/Lb. in the Strawberries

More than 300 farmworkers rallied at Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) headquarters in Woodburn, Oregon, on Sunday, April 30th to take an historic step: setting a crop-wide wage demand. Workers left the three-hour gathering unified behind the Organizing Committee's recommended demand of 17¢ and fired up to win it in the fields.

With the assembly, PCUN has taken another major step in our "Tenth Anniversary Organizing Campaign" launched last November, the biggest organizing drive ever in Northwest agribusiness. United Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez addressed the assembly, part of his first visit to Oregon, and delivered a strong UFW endorsement for PCUN and the Campaign.

Leaders of our Organizing Committee proposed 17¢ as both a winnable demand and a substantial increase over the 10¢ to 12¢/lb, which growers have paid for the past ten years. From the floor, workers called for broad participation, declaring that "the time is now", that "it's up to us", "we won't pick for less than 17¢," and "every worker is an organizer," (quoting a UFW credo).

As the assembly mandated, PCUN has sent a letter to area strawberry growers, informing them of our demand and inviting them to discuss it before the harvest starts, sometime around May 30th. By then, the Organizing Committee will have distributed more than 6,000 flyers throughout the Willamette Valley, another 2,500 in California's San Joaquin Valley, and signed up thousands of workers to support the demand.

The final countdown has started.

"The unity of consumers and farmworkers has a power greater than rich growers and agribusiness conglomerates." [Arturo Rodriguez]

Arturo Rodriguez Headlines Exciting Program in Portland

PCUN's "annual" International Workers Day Celebration returned to the Machinist Union hall in Portland on May 1st for the first time since 1993. Judging by the response of the one hundred or so people who attended, it was a tradition worth resuming.

As in 1993, when we dedicated the Portland celebration to honoring Cesar Chavez (who had died only days earlier), this year's event spotlighted the work of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. The celebration also provided a timely opportunity for PCUN to announce the wage demand for the strawberry harvest which had been set just the day before.

PCUN Organizing Committee members Efrem Pozos and Mario Cortes spoke briefly about the Woodburn rally and urged support for the Campaign. "To make $40 or $50 a day in the berries, we have to get up at 4:00 AM and work from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM," explained Mario. "It's not enough to support our

(Continued on page 11)

Thurston-Lewis Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Do NOT patronize list:

Capitol Coachman Jeep Mazda
Elysse's Potpourri
ERNST
Henry C's House of Prime Rib
Spar Restaurant & Bar
Urban Onion Restaurant

Running Proud on the Campaign Trail

Jim is running in Vancouver. Anna is running in Olympia. Maybe it's time for you to consider taking your first step toward elective office as well.

Openly lesbian and gay citizens are becoming candidates for political office more than ever before. Now, with assistance of Running Proud, a new organization that assists affectional minorities wishing to take the political plunge, candidates for city council like Vancouver's Jim Moeller and Olympia's Anna Schlecht have access to a network of political advisors who are eager to help with their campaigns.

In announcing her candidacy to the March 11 Lavender Action Rally in Olympia, Anna Schlecht said, "I am running for the Olympia City Council openly as a lesbian because gay politics is a part of small town politics." Precisely. Our issues are community issues. We should have equal representation; a seat at the political table.

Many local government offices are subject to elections this year, including cities, counties, and fire, port, or school districts. If you've expressed an interest in serving you community but have held back because of concerns about the public's views on sexuality, Running Proud encourages you to reconsider.

Our message is simple enough: gays and lesbians have talents we can offer to our fellow citizens, and we have every right to pursue representation in the public institutions that govern our lives. We are part of every community, and if we have the interest, the time, and the talent to serve as a community leader in elective office, our affectional orientation should not prohibit us from doing so.

Give Running Proud a call in Olympia at 360/943-4662 if you have considered running for political office either this year or in the future. We'd like to talk with you.

Curt Pavola
Running Proud Steering
Committee member.

WIP Schedule

WIP article submission deadline is:

Friday, June 23

On that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH (218 Fourth Ave) at 6 pm. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, June 27 at 7pm
Olympia Timberland Library

For advertising info call ad representatives

Dave Campbell at 352-6132

Rates run approx. $7.50/inch
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WORKS IN PROGRESS: PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507 (360) 705-2726

Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Pat Tassoni
Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

grief

by Sarah Light

who sold it to who
sold it to who
who sold it to who
who sold it to her
when did she do what
and who did it with her
why and why and why
who could have said what
why
why her
why any
one
her smile is gone
her presence
gone
who cries
who misses her
who goes to a meeting
who uses
who walks away
who dies
and why

we knew her
she is gone

Keith McHenry

Long time anti-military activist and co-founder of **Food Not Bombs**. He has been arrested 90 times for trying to give away free food. Come hear Keith speak about political repression, the politics of food, police violence, and pirate radio.

Sat. May 27 @ 7pm
TESC Lecture Hall 1

Sponsored by the Olympia Food Not Bombs and the Evergreen Peace Center.

Robert Meeropol

Thursday, June 1
Noon-1:30pm
TESC LIB Lobby

Robert Meeropol is the son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg who were executed on June 19, 1953 for supposedly stealing the secret of the atomic bomb. Robert has been actively investigating his parents' case since 1974, including suing the FBI and CIA for previously secret documents. For twenty-five years, Meeropol has been a political activist, author and speaker. In 1990, Meeropol founded the Rosenberg Fund for Children which provides for the educational and emotional needs of children whose parents have been harassed, injured, jailed, lost jobs or died in the course of their activities for social justice. Meeropol will also be speaking earlier on "Realizing the Dream: Overcoming a Traumatic Childhood to Found the Rosenberg Fund for Children." 11am in TESC LH5

Sponsored by EPIC, OMJP, LASO, Jewish Cultural Center, and academic programs. Info: 866-6000 x6431.

Political/Cultural Center

Wed., **June 7 @ 7pm**
Oly Timberland Library

Join the growing list of Founding Members who are contributing to actualizing a shared space for meetings and socializing by giving time, energy, ideas and money.

Foreign Policy

June 22 @ 7pm
SPEECH 218 4th

Jerome Johnson, Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition will give a talk on US foreign and military policy in the post-Cold War era. Key questions will be: Who are our friends and enemies, and why? What is the US role on the world stage? What is the role of the US military, and how should it be deployed?

Open discussion will follow.

This event is a fundraiser for the TCRC and is the second forum in a series that will be held over the course of the summer.

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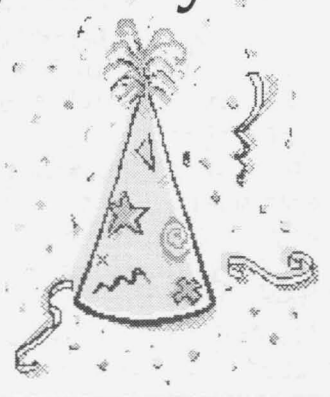

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Becca Law: Another Bad Solution Ends Up Hurting Kids

Jerome Johnson

If young people need yet another reason to get political, to get registered and vote, Governor Lowry gave them a serious one on May 11th, when he signed the odious "Becca Bill." Named for Rebecca Hedman, a Tacoma girl who ran away from home several times and who was murdered in Spokane while working as a prostitute because she couldn't get any other work, the new law weakens the civil rights of teenagers — especially girls — and does nothing to address the fundamental reasons *why* young people run away.

Provisions of the law:

• Runaways can be locked up for up to five days — without criminal charges — a so-called "cooling off period" — while authorities figure out how to run their lives.

• Require courts to accept petitions from parents who "can't control" their kids. The petitions could enforce parental disciplinary measures as court orders. Disobeying parental discipline means violating the court order, so kids could be locked up for as long as a week — again, possibly without criminal charges.

• Allows parents to force their kids into treatment of mental or substance abuse problems. If kids refuse, they can be locked up. This despite the fact that very few parents have the training and expertise to diagnose such conditions.

Although the law does provide "a process" for young people to escape their homes if parents are "part of the problem", it also empowers judges to mandate professional help for kids and parents to resolve problems. Reality check: many runaways are running from abuse, and a big part of abuse is sheer intimidation, kids who are too scared to tell their teachers or school counselors are not going to stand before a judge and ask for "treatment", then go home and endure even more severe abuse after the court appearance.

I know what I'm talking about, because I am a survivor of psychological and sexual abuse. When I was a teenager in the 1970s, my stepfather began a pattern of abuse that lasted two years, until the divorce. As in many such cases, my mother was so infatuated and I was so intimidated that I couldn't tell her — let alone anyone at school, or a judge — about the sexual abuse. In those days, all it took was a parent's signature and you could be locked up until age 18. Both my mother and stepfather assured me that if I tried to run away I would be caught and locked up, and if any other family members helped me they too would be prosecuted. Even at that age I knew what a criminal record meant, especially for poor unskilled young black men (as I was then) and I didn't care to begin my life as an adult that way. I had plans for my life, but until I turned 18 I was trapped, and we all knew it. I gritted my teeth, endured, survived, and praised God when my stepfather quit his job and ran away from *us*, resulting in divorce. Thank God, my mother and stepfather never reconciled.

I was very fortunate. Many kids in my position were — and are— not.

This is, perhaps, the worst part of the Becca Law. It doesn't address the *causes* of why teens run away; it punishes them for doing so, regardless of the reason. Indeed, by giving courts and parents such extraordinary powers it acturally criminalizes the act of running away from abusive — even life threatening—environments. And it won't stop people from running away. Many teens are trying to escape from environments even worse than mine, and will conclude that being locked up for five days means five days of respite from their abusers — and worth the risk of being caught.

Moreover, locking up people for running away will put otherwise innocent teens into places with serious offenders — car thieves, armed robbers, assailants, gang members. Exposure to such people will harden and adversely influence runaways, increasing their chances of getting a worse record, which in turn reduces opportunities for education and employment, thus increasing chances of recidivism.

In the larger context, the Becca Law violates the Fifth and Eighth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Under the Becca Law running away is self-incrimination, resulting in cruel punishment. But kids can't vote, and they don't campaign or make contribution — but their parents do, and it's the parents' money and votes that Lowry and his ilk in the Legislature are after.

In a way, it's ironic that Becca Law passed at all. Over the past several years, and especially in the wake of the tragic Oklahoma City Bombing, we've heard a lot of rhetoric about caring for and protecting out children. Ironic, because for fifteen years — right up to the current budget debates in Olympia and Washington DC — people have enthusiastically eviscertated money and programs that help children, women, and families. Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike are fighting over who will cut the most from AFDC, WIC, Head Start, School lunches, inoculations, Affirmative Action, the EPA, and a host of other programs that help our children survive and thrive. Parallel to this are efforts — like the Becca Law — which are succeeding in locking up more kids for longer terms under a wider range of "offenses", such as running away.

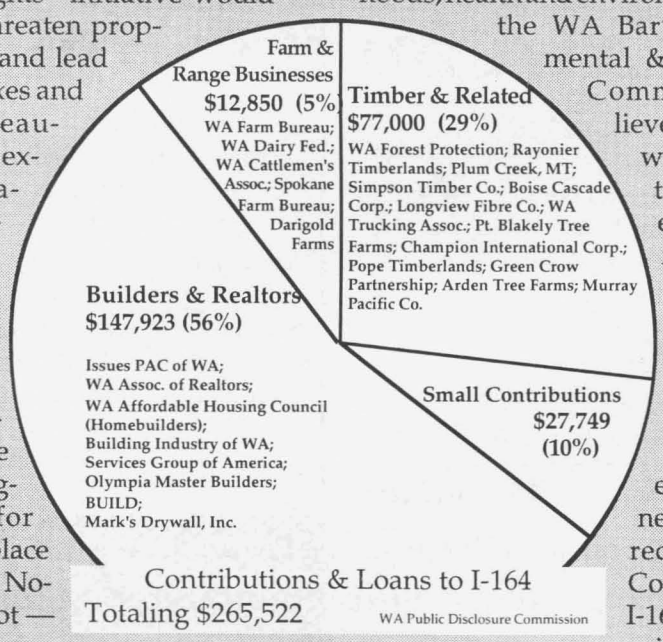
The only good thing about the Becca Law is that it serves as a wake-up call to our youth: *the day you turn 18, register to vote.* Then you can use the ballot to prevent dangerous politicians from coming to power and passing obscene laws like the Becca Law. *You* can protect your family and friends not yet old enough to vote, yet who are victims and survivors. *You* can make a difference.

Jerome is Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

...[L]ocking up people for running away will put otherwise innocent teens into places with serious offenders — car thieves, armed robbers, assailants, gang members.

I-164 and Ref. 48

The State Legislature has passed Initiative 164. This measure would require, governments to perform exhaustive economic studies before making land use decisions. I-164 would also require taxpayers to compensate property owners when government actions allegedly devalue property. This so-called "private property rights" initiative would ironically threaten property values and lead to higher taxes and more bureaucracy. This extreme measure becomes law on July 22 unless we can place it on the November ballot. A drive to gather signatures - for Ref.48—to place I-164 on the November ballot — has begun.

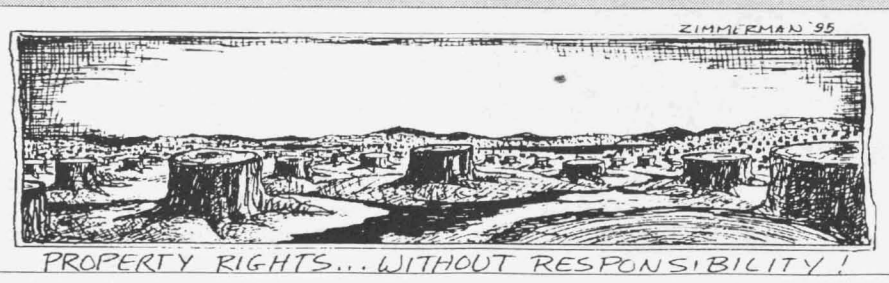

Farm & Range Businesses $12,850 (5%)
WA Farm Bureau; WA Dairy Fed.; WA Cattlemen's Assoc.; Spokane Farm Bureau; Darigold Farms
Timber & Related $77,000 (29%)
WA Forest Protection; Rayonier Timberlands; Plum Creek, MT; Simpson Timber Co.; Boise Cascade Corp.; Longview Fibre Co.; WA Trucking Assoc.; Pt. Blakely Tree Farms; Champion International Corp.; Pope Timberlands; Green Crow Partnership; Arden Tree Farms; Murray Pacific Co.
Builders & Realtors $147,923 (56%)
Issues PAC of WA; WA Assoc. of Realtors; WA Affordable Housing Council (Homebuilders); Building Industry of WA; Services Group of America; Olympia Master Builders; BUILD; Mark's Drywall, Inc.
Small Contributions $27,749 (10%)
Contributions & Loans to I-164
Totaling $265,522
WA Public Disclosure Commission

Initiative 164 would be a taxpayer's worst nightmare. An initial analysis by state agencies estimates that I-164 will cost 14 local governments $207.3 million over the next two years for the economic analyses alone. It is almost impossible to gauge how much it would cost taxpayers for the state's 264 local jurisdictions to attempt to comply with I-164. This estimate *does not* include taxpayer payments to developers and other landowners who claim loss in property value due to compliance with health, safety and environmental laws.

Initiative 164 would create more government, red tape and endless lawsuits The exhaustive economic studies imposed by I-164, and its incompatibility with existing law, would create "regulatory chaos" according to legal experts. Moreover, the vague and broad language of the initiative would precipitate years of costly litigation to determine.

I-164 would put our neighborhoods, health and environment at risk the WA Bar's Environmental & Land Use Committee believes that I-164 would apply to land use, environmental, anti-discrimination, health, and worker safety laws; even business licensing requirements. Consequently, I-164 would require taxpayers to compensate developers and property owners for alleged loss in property values due to health, safety and environmental laws, except when necessary to prevent a public nuisance. Supporters of I-164 claim that the public nuisance "exception" will safeguard property owners and neighbors. Legal experts disagree, saying public nuisance "is not a tool that can be relied upon to protect the interests of landowners today."

For info contact the local League of Women Voters or the No on 164 Committee at 4507 105th NE, Kirkland, WA 98033.



Defend Abortion Rights Now

Rally and Protest

against the violent right-wing assault on women

Saturday, June 17th

2:30 p.m.

in

Tacoma at the La Quinta Inn

(located at 1425 East 27th, near the Tacoma Dome.)

Join the caravan

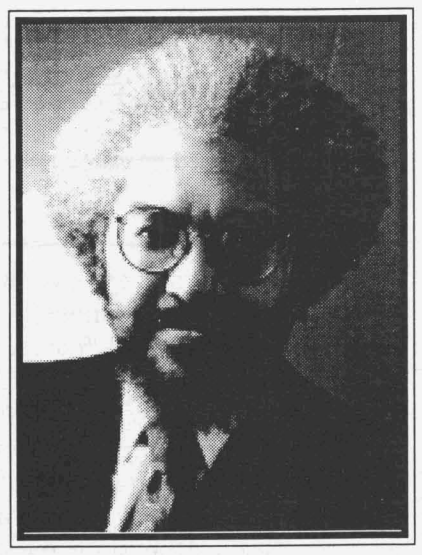
leaving Olympia at 1 p.m.

from the Asterisk Cafe, located at Division and Harrison, westside.

We will join other activists from the Puget Sound area as we affirm our commitment to self-determination and **demonstrate our resistance to the appalling actions of** *Human Life International* **- an anti-choice, anti-gay, and anti-Semetic organization** - during their conference "Defending Faith and Family" which teaches right-wing followers "how to incorporate spiritual warfare into (their) pro-life battle plan". That organization is founded by Paul Marx. an anti-Semetic right-wing extremist who is known for spewing christian-white supremacist ideology while speaking against women's reproductive rights. !RESIST THE RIGHT! *For information call 943-3045* !RESIST THE RIGHT!

Along the Color Line

Oklahoma and the Specter of Political Terrorism



Dr. Manning Marable

In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, with a death toll exceeding 130 and climbing, law enforcement officials and politicians scrambled to stake out public positions which would reassure a frightened public from the specter of terrorism. What made the explosion at the city's Federal Building so emotionally devastating to millions was not just the tragic photos of mutilated and bleeding children, of grieving parents, wives and husbands. It was the bold and previously inconceivable notion that Middle America itself was completely vulnerable to acts of terror. Everyone understands that the rules of the political game in a major metropolitan center like New York City are different. The World Trade Center bombing was no surprise. But a terroristic attack in Oklahoma City was in the realm of cultural politics like bringing Hamas or the Irish Republican Army on "The Brady Bunch" or "Leave It To Beaver."

It was not surprising that the basic response of the Clinton administration were political gestures simultaneously to the left and right. After some initial speculation that the bombing was somehow the work of Arab or Middle Eastern "terrorists" which was completely false, it became clear that those responsible were connected with a widespread underground of rightwing militia. These armed vigilantes hold racist and extreme anti-government ideologies. Several days after the bombing, Clinton attacked the voices of the radical right on talk radio, for nurturing extremist and intolerant viewpoints. For the next weeks, the debate in the media shifted back and forth between those conservatives like Rush Limbaugh who viciously condemn liberal democracy and government, and those who supported Clinton's basic argument that the polemics had gone too far.

Meanwhile, on the right, the Clinton administration moved in the opposite direction. Months before the Oklahoma bombing, Clinton had proposed the Omnibus Counter-terrorism Act, which was supposedly aimed at foreign terrorists who might threaten American lives and property. But a little-publicized provision of the Act would permit the President to designate any foreign organization as a terrorist formation. Therefore, any American solidarity group, local or national support organization, or even individuals, who gave money or material support to such a group would be considered in violation of the law. Even if the funds raised by Americans went specifically and solely to nonviolent, humanitarian purposes, such as health care, education, or clothing, it would be a crime.

For black and progressive Americans, the implications of this bill should become immediate clear, if we recall what happened in the anti-apartheid movement in this country. Thousands of us were arrested in 1984-1986, protesting the Reagan Administration's immoral policy of "constructive engagement" with the apartheid regime; more than one million Americans donated food, clothing, money, books, and other resources to the African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela. The US government maintained that the ANC was a "terrorist" organization for years. If Clinton's bill had been law back then, we would have been committing a crime to provide support for the ANC.

Meanwhile, nobody is saying what is really important about the growing phenomena of neo-fascist, racist militias all over the country. There are over one hundred thousand white men with guns who go target shooting each weekend, motivated by an extreme hatred of the government, and by a contempt for black people and their interests. This is the extreme right wing of mass white conservatism, which occupies both houses of Congress and is represented nationally by Newt Gingrich. Outside the electoral political arena, this extremism is reflected within the National Rifle Association. Just days before the Oklahoma City bombing, for example, an NRA fundraising letter sent to thousands warned of "jack-booted government thugs" who "seize our guns, destroy our property, and even injure and kill us." Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole justified the inflammatory language of the NRA's fundraising letter, declaring that "I don't believe anybody can rile (terrorists) up."

...[N]obody is saying what is really important about the growing phenomena of neo-fascist, racist militias all over the country...who go target shooting each weekend, motivated by an extreme hatred of the government, and by a contempt for black people and their interests.

Black Americans and other progressive voices in America must vigorously oppose and denounce Clinton's latest capitulation to conservatives, the Omnibus Counter-terrorism Act. A generation after the FBI's "Cointelpro" operation, which destroyed civil rights organizations and assassinated black leaders, we should not let the government once again have the legal power to silence critics, regardless of their ideologies. But we should also make the point that the Oklahoma bombing and those who applauded such acts of terror and violence are directly tied to the politics of the extreme Republican Right.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 275 newspapers and is broadcast by 80 radio stations throughout the US and internationally.

Remembering Extremist Groups

Joel Montague Ph.D.

The rise, or rather, the return of domestic terrorism brought to mind a personal experience which I believe has some relevance to the present situation.

The year was 1946. My wife and I were instructors in sociology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. This was my first employment after serving for three years in the U.S. Navy. One warm evening I attended a meeting of the American Friendship Society. I had heard of the organization and was curious about it. After making some inquiries, I found that it was a well known "front agency" of the Ku Klux Klan. The meeting was held in a downtown Baptist tabernacle, Knoxville. The hall was filled to capacity -- men, women and children--an apparent cross- section of the usual parishioners plus a few visitors such as myself and two or three newspaper reporters.

It was a pseudo religious meeting. Each of the two speakers read a text from the Bible and expounded upon the Christian tenets held by the American Friendship Society and at the same time demonized the National Council of Churches (mainline denominations.) A large Christian flag was prominently displayed and the speakers from time to time laid hands upon the Bible.

The American Friendship Society...was composed of god-fearing patriots fighting for God and country to protect "white womanhood", preserve segregation forever, keep "secularism" out of the schools, leave sex education in the family, and preserve our "Christian way of life."

The second theme was patriotism. The speakers said that they were strong supporters of the U.S. Constitution. They were, however, severe critics of the federal government and the Supreme Court. The American Friendship Society, they said, was composed of god-fearing patriots fighting for God and country to protect "white womanhood", preserve segregation forever, keep "secularism" out of the schools, leave sex education in the family, and preserve our "Christian way of life." Federal government bureaucrats were the enemy. They were referred to as "the devil's angels!" The American Friendship Society was carrying on the fight against evil.

At the end of the meeting, membership cards were distributed. Many good church members put on the armor of God and joined the fight. Some, no doubt, donned the sheets and the hoods of the KKK and used gasoline and fire to frighten people, and a few took rope and guns to kill people.

The preachers said "We were just talking" and the members of the friendship society said "We were just helping to fight evil with our ten dollars and our prayers." And the people who read the newspaper said "that's too bad" and did nothing.

Reprinted from the Thurston-Mason Senior News.

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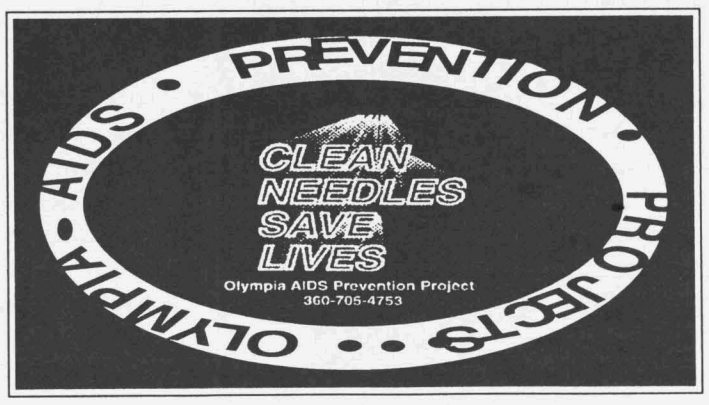

Who are the Homeless?

Joseph MacRae

If someone was to ask me, what do you think about the homeless? I'd answer to relieve some fear some people have toward the homeless.

Too often the stereotype is that they are all of a certain group. The stereotype is someone with a wool stocking cap, long overcoat, baggy pants and sneakers, back in the alley passing around a bottle of wine. Today, there are a lost more homeless people who do not fit the stereotype of "social degenerate", "someone too lazy to work", "drug burn-out", "Vietnam Vet", "alcoholic", "someone with mental problems."

Today the homeless include people working for minimum wage, especially with families who can't afford housing; elderly people who worked hard all their lives, but were tax-assessed out of their homes or who can't make it on their Social Security or pension; laid-off workers from Boeing, divorced school teachers, injured truck drivers; youth and college students who have to choose between tuition and housing.

About seventy percent of Americans are only one paycheck away from being homeless. There is a shortage of affordable housing everywhere. How many people can afford first and last months rent, a cleaning deposit, food expenses, and transportation on minimum wages or seasonal work?

Not all homeless people are street people, not all street people are homeless. Street people have learned how to hustle for money, know how to get food, travel and find shelter. But there are lots more homeless that we don't see on the street. Most of the people have no intention of staying homeless.

A lot of homeless people are fortunate enough to have friends and relatives to move in with. We don't see them: the couch-surfers and the house with ten people living in it. If you don't have anywhere to turn for help, you might find yourself on the street. Due to an economic change or serious life change, it can happen to anyone — lose your job, then your car, then your home.

How many people who do not support the homeless have themselves been homeless? A good many of varied people of all social standings have at one time or another in their lives been laid off, been injured, had a marriage fall apart and had to move in with a relative or friend till they could get their life back together. Spend a night in a homeless shelter, or a few days, hanging around. Listen to people talk, talk to people. You'll find there is no stereotype.

Next month, I'll share my personal shelter experiences over the past twenty-five years, some good and some bad.

Joseph is an Olympian resident.

Due to an economic change or serious life change, it can happen to anyone — lose your job, then your car, then your home.

The Lodoro...

The Fleetwood...

What Every Consumer Should Know About Wal-Mart

"They're big and greedy. They have no compassion for the community or the individual." Those are the words of former Nowata, OK Mayor Armel Richardson. His Honor should know. All Wal-Mart left his town was a "This Bud's for you!" They should stamp Richardson's words on the facesheet of every Wal-Mart zoning application. And they can add these words from R.K.G., a Wal-Mart economic forecast firm: "The evolution of the department store retail away from downtowns is as natural as the evolution of the horse and buggy to the automobile. Downtowns are functionally obsolete in their ability to serve the needs of today's consumer." As Ron Powers of Vermont writes: "This assertion amounts to an imperial decree, handed down from the colonizer to the colonized: Your towns are finished. Give them to us."

Despite all its image advertising, phony polling data, and toll-free phone lines, the Colonizer is still having big problems at the grassroots level:

- The Cromwell, CT Planning and Zoning Commission rejected a Wal-Mart proposal.
- 15 activists in Hornell, NY stopped a Wal-Mart with its roof already finished.
- Wal-Mart was forced to sue Wallingford, CT for denying them a permit to build.
- Wal-Mart refused to perform an economic impact statement in Plainville, CT, passing the buck to its developer. "It's a developer's call," said a Wal-Mart spokesman.
- 450 residents packed two auditoriums to oppose Wal-Mart's plans in East Aurora, NY.
- 350 residents crowded into a New Paltz, NY auditorium to stop a Wal-Mart.
- 600 opponents flooded the Warwick, PA middle school to keep Wal-Mart out.
- The town of Billerica, MA paid $1 million to keep a 23 acre farm out of Wal-Mart's hands.
- Activists in Sturbridge, MA began to publicize the activities of prolific Wal-Mart developer Steve Weiner of Chestnut Hill, whose W/S Development/Infinity Properties is responsible for at least 17 Wal-Mart proposals in New England.
- Citizens in New Milford, CT blew the whistle on Wal-Mart's anonymous mailing to town residents. The folks in Bentonville included a Wal-Mart button and ribbon in their letter.
- Citizens in Branford, CT pushed their case to the Connecticut Superior Court, despite threats from the developer of a SLAPP suit against them.

No store in the history of America has ever engendered such outright opposition and hostility. Yet the average American consumer still thinks of Wal-Mart as just a source of cheap underwear. All of us who have vowed never to drop a buck at Wal-Mart, need to carry our message into the living rooms of consumers, and the boardrooms of Wal-Mart shareholders. That's what the "megastore diet" is all about. The message: "Either get smaller–or lose my dollar!" We have to educate consumers to understand that until megastores begin to respect small town America, and scale their stores appropriately, they can expect not to see us in their parking lot.

Reprinted from Sprawl-Busters ALERT, Editor: Al Norman, produced in cooperation with the Conservation Law Foundation, Issue X, April 1995, 62 Summer St, Boston, MA 02110-1008 (617) 350-0990.

The Wal-Mart incursion into Washington

by Don Hopps

20 Stores on Docket

Yes, indeed, Wal-Mart in coming to Washington State. In the last two years, they have opened, or are building, or have filed permits, to build about twenty stores.

Wal-Mart and its tactics should be familiar to all United Food and Commercial Workers. Throughout the United States they have descended on small towns and cities with huge stores and aggressive marketing. These new super-stores sell everything from food to completing tax returns.

They have offered discount prices made possible by using non-union workers to build their new stores, by selling goods from foreign countries where child and slave labor practices are the rule, and by employing a non-union, part-time workforce. The new stores and low prices cost local communities family wage jobs and solid businesses. They create environmental headaches.

Deconstructing an Olympian Edi

¶1)Why a "growing list of opponents"? Historically, the opponents to Low Income Housing Institute's (LIHI) housing projects have always been the same: the Salvation Army, a core group of 10-15 militant downtown businesses (former incarnations as Citizens Afraid to Speak the Truth and Citizens Agreeing to Speak the Truth), the Olympian editorial board, and the Olympia Downtown Association, who just made their tacit opposition official May 10th. The only new face is Shawn Newman, a lawyer who is shielding the aforementioned 10-15 business owners for his own personal profit and local celebrity-hood.

¶3) Add this to the last sentence: "....as long as Olympia's city council and Homeless Services Committee (or any other local officials) do the job that they are supposed to do; namely, providing low income housing that the homeless can afford." But they haven't, and this editorial even bemoans the fact sheepishly while letting city and county officials off the hook without so much as a mild harangue. On the other hand, Sharon Lee of LIHI gets trashed for cutting through the bureaucratic bullshit and interjurisdictional feuding (see below).

¶4) If the Olympian editorial board understands the plight of the homeless, why are simple basic economics never mentioned as a factor contributing to homelessness? Instead, the homeless are continually referenced by character flaws, so that they may be more readily dismissed than all other presumably "decent human beings" seeking affordable housing.

¶5) This location is 'all wrong' for whom? Why isn't the location "key" for everyone except the residents who will be using the housing? Where is this elusive "all right" location? (see ¶15 below)

¶6) The social service agencies listed here do not provide permanent housing, which is what the Fleetwood will provide. As for the Federal building, almost all the services mentioned here could move in, thus freeing up other space for retail, while also being a convenient one stop service center for the people who utilize them.

¶7) "Squeezing out retail businesses?" Come on. You may recall that the Olympian ran a big feature a few months back about how revitalized the downtown was, with "shoppers spilling out into the streets..." and so on. I guess a few business people threatening to pull their ads can change one's perception fairly handily, though.

¶8) Again, who is "we"? The Fleetwood have been vacant for 7 years—could the Olympian please tell us what "we" wanted to do with it?

¶9) Funny how all these "residents" owned downtown businesses, and how no one outside their circle got to utter a word at the Forum. Funny, too, how Shawn Newman was allowed to rebut Sharon Lee's remarks when the moderator specifically stipulated in his introductory statement that no debate was to take place.

ERRATA: Works In Progress in last month's Fleetwood Forum mistakenly re-named Phil Rollins, owner of Archibald's; and associated Dori Nelson with The Gallery when she is with Washington Street Florals, Especially Made Designs, and Workin' Man's Closet.

The Olymp

OPINI

▶ OUR VIEW: LIHI SHOULD FOCUS ON MARTIN WAY LO

It's the wrong

Today, we add our voice to the growing list of opponents to the Low Income Housing Institute's plans to convert the Fleetwood Building into apartments for the homeless.

It's the right project at the wrong location.

Like the Olympia-Thurston Chamber of Commerce and the Olympia Downtown Association, we are not opposed to sheltering the homeless. We see a desperate need for more homeless housing and shelter services in the South Sound community.

We understand the plight of the homeless. We've witnessed their battles with mental illness, alcohol and drug dependency. We've seen their struggle to get back on their feet and felt their frustration with their inability to pull their own lives back together. We have compassion for them and understand their need for stability — stability brought by renting their own apartment.

But location of these services is key. The Fleetwood Building at Seventh Avenue and Washington Street, across from Sylvester Park, is all wrong.

The downtown business core is already jammed with social service programs — Bread and Roses, The Salvation Army, the food bank, Family Support Center, South Sound Advocates, Project H.A.N.D., numerous low-income housing projects, Community Youth Services, and Safeplace, just to name a few. LIHI has another proposal to fill the abandoned Federal Building with the offices of even more social service programs.

We've also seen state government fill up more downtown buildings. And while we support diversity in downtown Olympia, we're reaching a saturation point where government and social service offices are squeezing out retail businesses.

That's not what we want for downtown.

We also share some of the specific concerns expressed by South Sound residents at a recent public forum on LIHI's proposal.

Despite pointed questions from individuals in the audience, Sharon Lee, LIHI's executive director, did not answer questions specifically. She danced with and ducked every question.

Lee has not, in our opinion, answered why it should cost $70,000 per apartment unit in this remodeling project. Neither has she

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¶11) Sharon Lee has provided her architect, Les Tonkin, at every forum to explain the costs of constructing and operating subsidized low income housing. But the nontechnical answer is obvious; when you are forced to *buy* a building instead of utilizing one that you've gotten for free (the Federal building), then the cost per unit is going to be higher. Over 50 years, however, the cost per Fleetwood unit that the taxpayer will provide is a frugal $64, far less than what it costs to keep a homeless person at the Salvation Army. And as far as the artificial controversy over who gets to stay at the Fleetwood, both South Sound Advocates and Safeplace have told us that they could fill up the 43 units at the Fleetwood with local residents with no help from anyone.

¶10) This is a perceptual distortion that originates from the specious thinking outlined above. You can trace it yourself in this editorial, even if you weren't at the forum. We'll only point out that Sharon Lee has been down to Olympia for *four* forums regarding LIHI's housing projects, three of which she had a major hand in getting off the ground. It is only now, when the Fleetwood is about to go through, that *anybody* is asking *any* questions. And a lot of them are pretty dumb (see ¶11).

ditorial

By Letitia Flynt and Greg Hohnholt

ympian

NIONS

'AY LOCATION, NOT DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA

g location

given a clear indication of how many of those housed in the new apartments would be from this community and how many would be drawn from other locations.

Lee's evasive answers and her near arrogance in dealing with opponents have damaged her credibility in South Sound and on this specific project.

We wish there were more options available. We feel very strongly that had this community stepped up to the homeless problem when First Baptist Church first closed its shelter, we would not be in the predicament we are in today. We have only ourselves to blame.

But there is a way out of this.

Steve Cooper, owner of the old Lorodo Motel on Martin Way, has offered to swap buildings with LIHI. Cooper would develop the Fleetwood Building into a market-value project, either commercial space or housing. The Lorodo, which is near, but across Martin Way from Bailey Motor Inn, could be remodeled into 20 one- and two-bedroom units.

There are many advantages to Cooper's proposal.

- **It creates badly needed** permanent housing for homeless people. But the two-bedroom units would allow families to live there as well — meeting the needs of homeless women and children, something that is woefully lacking in LIHI's current proposal.
- **Cooper's proposal** gets the apartment units out of the heart of downtown Olympia. But the site is centrally located, on the bus line with quick access to employment and social service opportunities. It's close to medical facilities and treatment centers.
- **The Martin Way location** is a transitional area of the city — with a healthy mix of retail businesses, apartments, and private homes. It's a much better fit than the heart of downtown Olympia.

At this point, LIHI is in the driver's seat, but Thurston County Commissioners can influence the outcome. Commissioners have sponsored LIHI's application for a state Community Development block grant, but have not yet accepted the block grant. Before accepting the money and passing it on to LIHI, we urge commissioners to thoroughly investigate the Martin Way proposal and urge LIHI to move in that direction.

¶12) Lee has hardly been "evasive;" in addition to the aforementioned forums, she has made herself available to the city council, state representatives, and county commissioners repeatedly. She has invited local officials to inspect LIHI's other successful housing projects, with very little response so far. She has also been out with realtors to seek other locations outside of downtown Olympia, while obstructionists in the Newman camp have done nothing but fume and point fingers. As far as "arrogance," what do you call a newspaper that consistently trashes Lee while letting the local officials it blames for our homeless problems off the hook with phrases like "but that's water under the bridge (referring to the failure of the regional task force and city council to "tackle the homeless issue more aggressively.") Why doesn't the Olympian accuse Newman, an attorney who fronts a propaganda campaign for his own personal profit while shielding his cowardly employers in anonymity, of being 'evasive' and 'arrogant'?

¶13) "We" should go back 16 months prior to the First Baptist closing, to October 29, 1992. The city council didn't get off its haunches until the homeless were compelled to camp out in Sylvester Park. Even when Pastor Hochstatter gave the city four months notice, the best the city could muster was to expand the services at the Salvation Army—which left many out in the cold. The "specialty shelters" that were supposed to pick up this slack have never seen the light of day, once again leaving another crisis to fester next winter. (And with the anti-car camping ordinance just about to pass, it's gonna get worse, folks. Kinda reminds me of when the city council closed down the 4th Ave. bridge without creating an alternative. But this is where we came in...)

¶13) The only "predicament" here, in our opinion, is Olympian editor Vicki Porter's perceptions about the homeless, and the skullduggery of Shawn Newman and his aspiring Merry Band of feudal lords.

¶15) The Lorodo is assessed at one-third the value of the Fleetwood, and would provide less than one-half of the housing. If this wasn't enough, consider the opinions of an anonymous Thurston County official knowledgeable about both buildings, and Janis Dean, former president of the Olympia Downtown Association: A bad deal. A great deal for Cooper of course; he gets a prime building in the center of downtown, and LIHI gets a ramshackle group of buildings that cannot be built up without leveling an entire hillside. This is not a viable alternative, folks.

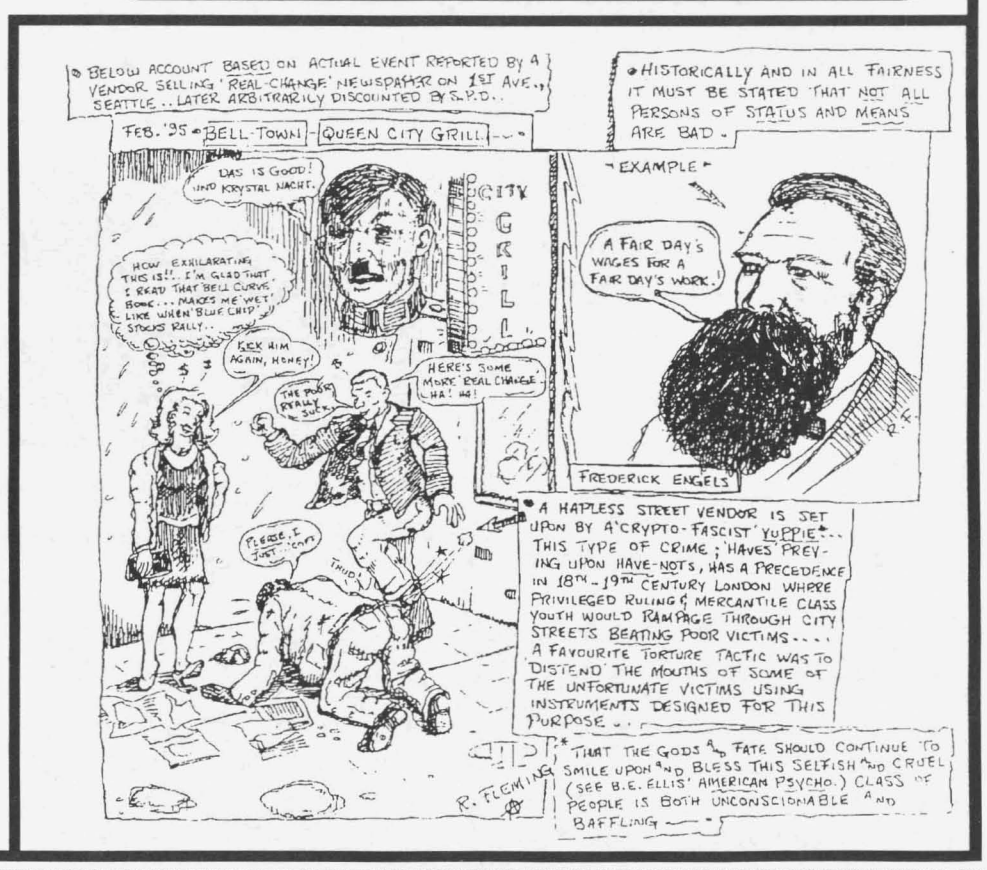
¶16) "Advantages" for whom? Answer: The Olympian, who appeases its downtown business advertisers while wallowing in its self-congratulatory compassion-of-convenience.

¶17) This is just plain stupid, Vicki. Do you bother to read your own paper? The funding for the Fleetwood is for single resident occupancy (SRO); families could not stay in any building that Cooper or anyone else came up with.

¶20) If LIHI is truly "in the driver's seat," it is only because they know how to do what our local officials do not have the political motivation to do. Since Olympia has failed to provide the Section 8 low income housing that the homeless and very low income people need, we should welcome LIHI's help to provide for our most needy community members. To do less is, to coin the language of Ms. Porter, 'evasive' and 'arrogant'.

¶s 18 & 19) OK, we're being redundant, but: where were these alternative locations when LIHI was still at a point in their circutious funding searches that modifications could be made? Since August of last year, LIHI has been asking for alternative sites to look into, and some were made that were entirely inappropriate (e.g. the Angelus Hotel, which is still in the heart of downtown, by the way).

The bottom line is this: for all the supposed "understanding" about the homeless that the Olympian professes to have (and certain business people presume to have), none of them have the least motivation to search for and find a truly alternative site. They are either expecting LIHI to find it, when it is simply not in LIHI's business interest at this stage of the game to do so, or waiting for a proposal, like Cooper's, to drop out of the sky hand-wrapped.


BELOW ACCOUNT BASED ON ACTUAL EVENT REPORTED BY A VENDOR SELLING 'REAL-CHANGE' NEWSPAPER ON 1ST AVE., SEATTLE .. LATER ARBITRARILY DISCOUNTED BY S.P.D..
FEB. '95 BELL-TOWN - QUEEN CITY GRILL
DAS IS GOOD! UND KRYSTAL NACHT.
HOW EXHILARATING THIS IS!!.. I'M GLAD THAT I READ THAT 'BELL CURVE' BOOK... MAKES ME WET LIKE WHEN 'BLUE CHIP' STOCKS RALLY..
KICK HIM AGAIN, HONEY!
THE POOR REALLY SUCK..
HERE'S SOME MORE 'REAL CHANGE' HA! HA!
PLEASE, I JUST CAN'T
THUD!
QUEEN CITY GRILL
HISTORICALLY AND IN ALL FAIRNESS IT MUST BE STATED THAT NOT ALL PERSONS OF STATUS AND MEANS ARE BAD -
EXAMPLE
A FAIR DAY'S WAGES FOR A FAIR DAY'S WORK!
FREDERICK ENGELS
A HAPLESS STREET VENDOR IS SET UPON BY A 'CRYPTO-FASCIST' YUPPIE... THIS TYPE OF CRIME; 'HAVES' PREYING UPON HAVE-NOTS, HAS A PRECEDENCE IN 18TH-19TH CENTURY LONDON WHERE PRIVILEGED RULING & MERCANTILE CLASS YOUTH WOULD RAMPAGE THROUGH CITY STREETS BEATING POOR VICTIMS.... A FAVOURITE TORTURE TACTIC WAS TO 'DISTEND' THE MOUTHS OF SOME OF THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS USING INSTRUMENTS DESIGNED FOR THIS PURPOSE..
THAT THE GODS AND FATE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SMILE UPON AND BLESS THIS SELFISH AND CRUEL (SEE B.E. ELLIS' 'AMERICAN PSYCHO.') CLASS OF PEOPLE IS BOTH UNCONSCIONABLE AND BAFFLING
R. FLEMING

Speaking Out Against Anti-Gay Hate: Survival in a Society of Bigots

Mitch Carlson

Bill Clayton was 17 years old. A drama student, a craftsperson, a sensitive soul and a confirmed bisexual. While I never met Bill personally, many of my associates attended an anti-hate rally to stand up for him and his friends after they were Gay bashed over a month ago. Bill and his friends really appreciated the support. But as the month wore on, Bill's ability to cope with what happened to him got tougher. It was a brutal assault; he required hospitalization. All he was doing was walking to school. And on Monday, May 22nd he killed himself. The day before he died, I was reading the *Olympian* and read one of the most hateful letters against Gays and Lesbians I have seen in a long time, and I have seen plenty. Is there a connection? Maybe not directly, but the hate filled lies and rhetoric endorses homophobia and all its trappings. I am angry, because through anti-Gay letters and bigotry, we are teaching the next generation to perpetuate our own programming of hate and lies. The dominant culture thinks of the oppressed as just "whiners" with no concerns to deal with. The oppressed just want us to feel guilty.

18 years ago, I graduated from high school. As a good student, semi-effeminate and non-athletic, I was tagged a "fag", a "fairy", a "homo", you name it. I was beaten, pushed and punched almost every day, often by people I didn't know. Since the school was small, word was out that I was a fag, and I therefore became a sanctioned target. My counselor suggested that I had a chip on my shoulder because I couldn't get along, a comment I will never forget because as I walked away from his office, a bully grabbed me and started to throw me off the third floor stairwell. It was the grace of a teacher walking by that stopped that one.

I began skipping school, I developed a nervous rash that caused my entire inner thigh section (close to the groin) to break out. I was embarrassed and humiliated and only went to the doctor after it got so bad that I started bleeding. Sadly, my own father was homophobic and he blamed me for my troubles. I felt terribly alone. Three times during my high school years I seriously contemplated suicide. Everywhere I looked homosexuals were called "sick", "perverted", "less than human" you name it.

One day I was filling the bathtub full of water with the intention of dropping my hair dryer in the tub with me in it, and I was shaken out of it by the phone ringing. It was my best friend who calmed me down. At this time, I discovered a song which would make me feel stronger when I was feeling weak. It was Jimmy Cliff's "The Harder They Come."

I would come home from school in tears and play it over and over and sing along with the words:

The oppressors are trying to get me down
Trying to drag me, under the ground
And they think that they have got their battle won,
I say forgive them lord, they know not what they done,
And as sure as the sun will shine,
I'm gonna get my share of what's mine,
and the harder they come...

During this time I was also involved in a born again church that preached against the immorality of homosexuality. I prayed to God everyday for "salvation" from my "sickness." I had the faith of a mustard seed, to quote biblical scripture. I was desperate to change, but couldn't. I became a recluse, skipping school and going home to hide while other students were still in school. I revisited my high school 5 years ago to confront the memories that haunted me. Many teachers and the prinicipal's office assistants remembered me as a troubled youth. My former english teacher said I was, in his recollection, what he would call the first "at risk" student he ever dealt with and that since then, they are extremely common. The school didn't know how to deal with me and I made it clear that if they left me alone, I would do the work I had to do.

When I was 18, I was sexually assaulted by a person who was running a housemate ad. Bill Clayton, the boy who committed suicide, was sexually assaulted at age 14. I was still wet behind the ears, so I didn't even think that I was entering a dangerous situation. This, of course, did nothing to improve my self-esteem.

At age 20, I was chased by a car of thugs holding a lead pipe in their hand as I made my way to a Gay bar in a warehouse district in my home town. I was terrified. I have had total lonliness of not having my own family -- children, a house and stuff like that, but I still love my independence.

All these life issues, which simple words on a word processor cannot really fully explain, came to a head when a boy 18 years after I graduated, killed himself because of the taunts and the abuse he experienced in school and out. When Bill Clayton killed himself and I attended his memorial, I thought "there but for the grace of God go I."

I realized how close I came to ending it all. How much his experienced mirrored mine (although I did not require hospitalization). In times of emotional upheaval, I have found life affirming experiences listening to Gay postive music.

Romanovsky and Phillips were the first gay group I ever saw. I was 23. It was my first Gay pride march. This music has sustained me at times of attack. Eighteen years later, I shake my head in shock and amazement that people still invest time in hating me and my friends simply through their own bigotry and prejudice.

No, Gay and Lesbian activism isn't about whining. It is about survival. It is about giving people who are generally denied positive imagery a place to hear the voices of people like them and to feel good about who they are.

I realize that this is a very intimate discussion of my life and I feel somewhat vulnerable in sharing it. But I want you to know where the community's anger comes from, and I want to honor Bill Clayton and his family. Bill's family asked that people speak out whenever they encounter hate. Speak out! Support the dignity and rights of people of color, Gays and Lesbians, women, etc. In order for me to do that, I have to expose a side of my life that, although still walks with me, no longer traumatizes me as it once did.

Silence is the voice of complicity.

Over the years, I have worked hard to a) develop a positive self-image, b) speak out against hate and intolerance, c) try to make things better for future generations, d) never allow myself to be silenced again by bullies or thugs.

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A Future for Sarajevo's Children

Linda Beekman

Linda Beekman recently returned from her fourth humanitarian mission to Sarajevo. In the past she has delivered food and supplies, toys and school things for children, equipment for the ballet company, and most recently goods for a children's home. Here is her story about that visit.

Some say Sarajevo is a "dead town." It's easy to see why one might say that. Almost every building has sustained some type of damage, and in every park, trees have been cut to the ground for firewood. Thousands of people have died or been wounded, and many have fled the city. But for those who remain, life continues with hope. No where is this more evident than in schools.

The Mjedenica Home/School for Retarded Children, founded in 1946, sits half way up the hill from the old part of town. Before the war, about 120 day and resident students were served by the school. Now, about 45 children (7-20 years) live there. When the barricades went up around the city, some children lost all contact with their families.

Because of war conditions, the staff has worked 24 hour shifts instead of the usual eight. Staff and children stayed in the basement for weeks at a time because of heavy shelling — when they did come out, it was winter, and all slept together in one room that contained a wood-burning stove, burning doors for fuel.

Today the children are back in their dorms, although there still isn't much heat and coats and hats are usually worn in the classrooms.

The day I arrived at the Mjedenica, I found students and the director in the courtyard, chopping wood. Another teacher was in the gym, engaged in a serious game of soccer. Most impressive was the artwork displayed throughout the school.

In the workshop, students learn to work with wood, cardboard, cloth, metal, paper, leather and many other materials. A long table displayed handmade items — model houses, spiders made from wire, wooden toys, etc. Back outside in the courtyard, on a steep ledge, I was proudly shown a plastic greenhouse. Although covered with March snow, it contained row upon row of tiny green plants, and hope for spring and summer and maybe fresh vegetables.

The director, Mirsad Asimovic, has worked for 23 years at the school. He told me "before the war we were a school, during the war we have become a family." The staff at the Mjedenica work primarily one on one, preparing these children with special needs to learn to take care of themselves. They learn to tie their shoes, to garden, to keep house and to be creative.

About a 20-minute walk down the hill and across the foot bridge is another school with children who have similar needs, primarily, the need to grow and develop and become all they were meant to be. This is the music school, a three-story building that houses an elementary school ages 7-15, a high school ages 16-19 and a college. Here, the worries of the war give way to piano lessons, ballet classes and recitals. Five children share one flute, but never mind, one does what one must. Two children have died in this building from shells — tragedies that no one can forget. But today classes are in session, Bach and Beethoven to be learned — talented children prepare for a career in music or ballet.

In this war situation, adults deny themselves in order to give to their children, for children are in the process of growing, of becoming. There must be a future for children — and if there is a future, then there must be peace.

Reprinted from the Tampa Bay Peace Paper 130 19th Avenue Southeast, St Petersburg, FL 33705 (813)822-5522.

When the barricades went up around the city, some children lost all contact with their families...the staff has worked 24 hour shifts instead of the usual eight.

THE FREEDOM TO TRAVEL CAMPAIGN

In October 1993, the first Freedom to Travel Challenge trip, which included 175 people of all ages, from all walks of life and 25 states, traveled to Cuba to assert our constitutional right to travel. Participants refer to the trip - which included meetings with ordinary Cubans as well as top leaders - as "the highlight of our lives." Despite harassment at the border when we returned and threats of prosecution by the government, we garnered a tremendous amount of public, media, and government support. The State Department set up an Inter-Agency Review team to reconsider the travel restrictions and the US Congress passed a resolution affirming the right of US citizens to travel for educational, cultural, and humanitarian purposes.

In the meantime the Freedom Travel Campaign opened 50 Freedom to Travel offices across the country which actively organized for the second Freedom to Travel challenge trip in June 1994 in which almost 200 visionary and courageous souls participated. One week prior to departure, the Treasury Department froze the $48,000 bank account of the Campaign, in an effort to stop the challenge. But the Campaign managed to raise all the money it needed (through donations and loans) and made the trip anyway! The Campaign then brought a lawsuit against the government for the right to travel and the Treasury Department returned our funds. Our case goes before the Court of Appeals this spring.

In August 1994, in an effort to deal with the refugee crisis in US-Cuba policy, the Clinton Administration tightened the restrictions on travel, prohibiting *even Cuban Americans from traveling to Cuba to visit their families.* The Freedom to Travel Campaign responded by opening up the October and December 1994 challenge trips to Cuban Americans. Several Cuban American families have now joined us, including one family which hadn't seen their Cuban relatives in 15 years and four generations of the Fernandez family who attended their first-ever reunion in Cuba!

The travel restrictions are designed to stop US citizens from traveling the world and getting to know its people (in this case, the Cuban people) and to render us impotent in our efforts to influence US foreign policy. Travel restrictions interfere with our "right to know" and enable the government to dehumanize Cuban people in the eyes of the US citizenry. We believe that US citizens have not only a right, but also a *responsibility* to communicate across borders, especially with a people that our government has branded as the "enemy." As Martin Luther King so eloquently stated "We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation and for those it calls enemy, for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers and sisters."

FREEDOM TO TRAVEL CAMPAIGN, PO BOX 401116, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94140 415-558-9490 • Next month the second article from a couple who visited Cuba.

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What is "Naturism"?

Dave Zink

At the risk of gross over-simplification, naturism = social nudism + environmental ("green") consciousness.

Why naturism? There are a few special places where you can go for some furtive skinnydipping or sunbathing, but they're getting more and more difficult to find. There aren't too many hassle-free places left. That's why naturist *parks* have grown in popularity. For one thing, they're safer places than "free" beaches. There are better sanitary facilities, and overnight camping is more comfortable. Some have rental units. Many women have expressed feeling outnumbered and insecure at nude beaches like the one on the Evergreen campus. At resorts, the ratio between the sexes is more balanced, which improves ambience. There's much more to do at a resort. Naturist retreats are resources where activists can get together to discuss problems and work on strategy and tactics in an environment that promotes creativity. And, by utilizing the wealth of available recreational opportunities, have a great time in the process.

What goes on there? Visualize luxuriating in the warm sun, enjoying the caress of a gentle alpine breeze on your unfettered body. Slipping freely through the cool, silky waters of a lake. Feeling completely casual and relaxed without clothing in the company of others likewise unclad. These are some of the first rewards of nude recreation.

Some newcomers are shy at first. "I'd be too embarrassed!" "I'm no exhibitionist!", and "Don't guys ever get sexually excited?" are common questions and comments. Actually, most newcomers find themselves perfectly at ease in about 10 minutes, although it may take longer for some. It doesn't matter. Take as long as you like. Wrap yourself in a towel for a while if you feel shy. Eventually, you'll take the plunge and emerge into a world you've only dreamed of. Once you get past some minor (if any) initial anxiety, you're home free.

At that point, you'll notice that aside from not wearing clothes, people in nudist environments behave basically like anyone else in polite society. Social activities range from sports to group parties, BBQ's and cook-outs (food even tastes better in this environment!), and lounging around the beach or pool. What's different here is that people tend to be friendlier than in "textile' environments. Sharing a unique experience encourages warmth and openness; its easier to greet people and initiate conversation. There's an unspoken sense of camaraderie common to any group of people who share the same progressive outlook and personal commitment. You can be as active or as laid-back as you want. Before long, you'll be canoeing, playing volleyball, tennis, or some other game, throwing a frisbee, and basically having the time of your life, on the road to better health and fitness. The emphasis is on wholesome, family-oriented activities. At some point or other, you'll probably find yourself joining into a lively conversation or discussion. All with a feeling of well-being and joie d'vivre that surpasses anything you've ever felt clothed.

Naturist resorts are at the leading edge of the healthiest trends of our time: the desire to live naturally and nurture feelings of self-worth. The sense of deep relaxation and well-being that you will almost certainly feel there comes from self-acceptance, and being accepted by others, without the sexual games and dishonesty that comes in clothed environments. Nudism creates an incredibly peaceful environment. Newcomers invariably report that lifelong feelings of shame connected to the body evaporate like raindrops in the sunshine. As stress dissolves, you will feel a re-stirring of a sense of tribalism increasingly denied us by a materialistic culture based on inequality and competition. It is *exhilarating*!

One reason why a day at a naturist park is so refreshing is that it delivers us temporarily from the silly "games" that come with clothes. Its hard to imagine how much clothing contributes to the grip of daily tensions and oppression until we see what its like to socialize without them. Clothing locks us into a collective unreality that prescribes set responses to social status, roles, and expected behaviors. In shedding our daily "uniforms", we also shed a weighty burden of anxieties. You will emerge from this cleansing experience to find that you've sloughed off much of the crap that you've accumulated by living in this capitalist society. For once in your life, you'll be part of a situation where age, occupation, and social status don't really count for much. You'll find yourself relating more on the basis of who you really are instead of who your clothes say you are. Nudism is a rebellion against the objectification of people.

Feeling so free in the fresh air produces a natural "high". But is it escapism? I don't think so. Just the opposite: it puts you back in tune with reality, with what's **really** real. Nude recreation is a balanced respite from the pressures of daily life. It is an energizer, that will recharge your batteries and re-motivate you. One weekend spent in this environment has about the same calming effect on your psyche as a whole week in most other vacation settings. Try to make eye contact and have a conversation with a stranger at a state or national park. Not easy? At a nudist park, such behavior is normal and non-threatening.

Who will you meet? People of all ages, sizes, and shapes. Teachers, doctors, housewives, students, lawyers, blue and white collar workers, even members of the clergy are nudists. Naturists tend to have a strong environmental commitment. Although many do tend to be socialist and/or liberal, there is no political litmus test for membership and you'll meet folks from across the spectrum. You'll see very few "perfect" or Charles Atlas figures. Don't wait until you lose a few pounds. Come as you are: you'll have a lot more fun losing those pounds there!

The corporate owners of the mass media are doing their best to keep people away from developing a revolutionary consciousness. Attitudes in this country are often driven by misinformation and irresponsible reporting. How many times do sit-com and tabloid watchers get the message that nudists are hedonists, sexual deviants, or just plain kooks? Truth is, "textile" beaches are far sexier places than nudist camps: that's where exhibitionists go, not to nudist parks.

The corporate owners of the mass media are doing their best to keep people away from developing a revolutionary consciousness.

Another reason for wide misunderstanding of nudism is that whenever nudity is depicted on TV, it is typically within a sexual context. To his credit, one recent exception, in which nudists got a fair representation, was when Phil Donahue did a show on the effects (quite positive) upon children being raised in a nudist environment.

I first got the idea to write this article last summer at Lake Bronson, where I spoke with a couple that had just gotten back from a Grateful Dead concert in Oregon. She told me, "We're not about sex here. Its more a sense of rediscovered innocence and remerging with nature. We come to celebrate our Mother Earth". I thought that pretty well summed it up.

The freedom to practice this lifestyle is the hard-earned result of the efforts of many far-seeing pioneers of naturist philosophy. The history of this movement is an interesting story in itself.

Across the USA, there are currently about 90 resorts. More are opening each year. The two closest to Olympia are Forestia and Lake Bronson.

Forestia (phone: (206) 392-6833) is a member-owned cooperative located on Tiger Mountain a little south of Issaquah. First established in 1937, its early slogan was "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite Snoqualmie". Its also known today simply as "FS". A pretty spot where folks can remerge with the Gaian matrix. The generally peaceful atmosphere is dispelled twice a year: in mid-July for the Fun Run, which last year had about 300 runners, and in August for the "Nudestock" Rock Festival.

Lake Bronson Resort ((206) 793-0286), is located a few miles north of Sultan in the Cascade foothills. This is a beautiful park, with a spring-fed lake with its own frog chorus and studded with water lilies, an 85-foot waterfall, and acres of hiking trails. The lake is the center of activity, where folks enjoy swimming, canoeing, even sailboarding. A wonderful place for kids. The Lakeview Cafe has a patio dining area overlooking the lake. I love this place!

There are other resorts located near Spokane and in the Skagit Valley. Wreck Beach, located on the University of British Columbia campus in Vancouver, is perhaps the finest nude beach on the West Coast. In over 20 years of travelling, I've found that the consistently high standards of nudist resorts make them the best places to stay while vacationing.

A growing number of naturist resorts located where it stays warm year-round are offering residential opportunities. In Florida, California, and Georgia, naturists are building intentional **communities** where they can live a year-round clothing-free lifestyle. Besides the usual activities, life-affirming classes like Tai Chi and Yoga are offered. Abroad, entire towns have been declared clothing-optional zones. This is an international movement. Cap d'Agde in France, with a population of 40 thousand dedicated naturists, is a well-known example.

Some prefer to belong to a travel club, which meets in homes and uses various parks for special events. Forest Murmurs Travel Club (P.O. Box 5113, Lacey, 98503-0199) is a good example.

For me, naturism has been a wellspring of renewal for over 20 years. More than just a natural anti-depressant, its been a welcome anti-dote to the pessimism and cynicism that comes from living in a capitalist culture. And it provides me with that glimpse of utopia that tells me we *can* build a better world , and inspires me to keep working for it.

Naturism deserves legal religious protection. We are *living* our beliefs about the way of life our Creator intended for us, and have our own visions to achieve world peace and cooperation. It purifies the mind, and helps you advance to a higher spiritual level of consciousness. I see it as a key element in the overall struggle for human liberation and the building of a new and better culture.

Find out more. If you have any questions, call one of the nearby clubs or one of the two major national groups: The **Naturist Society** (P.O. Box 132, OshKosh, Wisconsin 54902. Phone: (414) 426-5009) and the **American Association for Nude Recreation** (1703 Main Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34744-3396. Phone: 1-800-879-6833).

A guy at Lake Bronson told me that, "People need to understand that we are *part* of nature, part of Gaia. Its about getting back to our primal roots. Things are getting bad. Somehow, we've got to wake up people. If we don't, this ecological fascism you see going on in this country will just get worse." Referring to Lake Bronson, he said, "This place is an island of sanity!"

This is one thing that could change your whole outlook on life. One health hint: if you burn easily, don't forget to bring along some suntan lotion with an SPF of 15 or higher.

(Farmworkers, cont.)

families."

New UFW President Arturo Rodriguez opened his keynote speech by thanking those present for their long-standing support, both of the UFW and PCUN. "We couldn't have achieved what we have achieved without you," Artie began. "The unity of consumers and farmworkers has a power greater than rich growers and agribusiness conglomerates."

PCUN's Cipriano Ferrel & UFW's Arturo Rodriguez

"I was tremendously impressed yesterday at the PCUN rally in Woodburn to see the workers' enthusiasm and willingness to challenge the strawberry growers," Artie continued. "It reminded me of the spirited receptions we received in farmworker communities during April's [1994] 340-mile Pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento."

Artie went on to report the following organizing breakthroughs since concluding the Pilgrimage:

- Winning ten straight union representation elections, all by overwhelming margins, covering 3,500 workers.
- Signing the largest contract since 1973, covering 1,300 workers at Bear Creek Productions in Wasco, Cal. Based in Medford, Bear Creek is the nation's largest (and now union!) rosebush grower.
- Signing a wine grape contract with the Sheid Company including medical, pension, vacation benefits and $8 hourly minimum wage.
- Securing a secret-ballot election and goodfaith bargaining pledge for the Chateau St. Michelle workers in Washington (the state's first).
- Reducing table grape sales by 12% over four years and eliminating or phasing out use of five deadly pesticides, all through the ongoing boycott.

This article came from the PCUN Update Issue #21 Oregon 's Farmworker Union May 1995 published by Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United. PCUN can be reached at 300 Young St. Woodburn, OR 97071 (503) 982-0243.

PCUN asks you to boycott Steinfeld's, FAV-R-PAC, and Santiam.

The UFW of WA reminds you that the boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle wines is suspended.

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"Any and every child born into the world deserves all the dignity and respect there is—in short, love, which is not a privilege, but a natural right." **Keorapetse Kgositsile**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
"When Indians resented the robberies and injustices to which they were subjected beyond bearing, they were murdered. They were murdered wantonly and in cold blood; and then urgent alarmist representations would be sent to Washington that the Indians were in a rebellious state, whereupon troops would be hurried forth to put them down in slaughter." Gustavus Myers, *History of the Great American Fortunes*		This month was named after the Roman goddess Juno, honoring her as the "patroness of marriages and the family." MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 ○ full moon ● new moon		**1** 1909- Du Bois forms National Negro Committee which will become the NAACP on May 1, 1910 1921- Tulas, Oklahoma: Twenty whites and five blacks killed in race riot 1963- World's Fair opens in Seattle	**2** 1906- U S troops rush to intervene in Green Mine strike at Cananea, Mexico 1924- Congress confers citizenship upon all Native People in the United States 1946- The Italian people vote to abolish the monarchy	**3** 1621- Merchants found Dutch West India Co. which receives a trading monopoly and will rule the New York area 1903-1,000s of Arizona miners strike 1963- World mourns Pope John XXIII's death
4 1792- Vancouver went a shore at the site of Everett and claimed the region for England 1914- British mine and railway unions join construction strike; 2 million workers out 1972- Angela Davis is acquitted by a white jury	**5** 1905- Clergymen in New York declare Russians more pagan than Japanese 1950- US Supreme Court rules that segregation practices in Southern railroad dining cars and in two Southern universities are invalid	**6** 1904- Striking miners in Denver battle with state militia, 22 killed 1966- James Meredith wounded by white sniper as he walked along U.S. Highway 51 near Hernando, Mississippi on 2nd day of 220 mile voter registration march	**7** 1712- Pennsylvania representative assembly enacts legislation banning the importation of slaves into the Pennsylvania Colony 1904- Militia sent to Cripple Creek Co. to suppress Western Federation of Miners strike	**8** 1916- 162 killed in Butte, Montana mine disaster 1953- Supreme Court reverses ruling. Restaurants in the District of Columbia may not legally refuse to serve "well-behaved and respectable" African-American patrons	**9** 1953- Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York 1965- For the first time, the US confirms that Americans are undertaking combat assignments in Vietnam	**10** 1905- Santo Domingo rejects U S control over economic affairs 1942- Germans burns tiny village of Lidice, Czechoslovakia. Shoots 173 male residents, sends women and children to concentration camps
11 1872 - Unions legalized in Canada 1963- Gov Wallace tries to prevent the admission of 2 African-American students to the U of Alabama, but steps aside when he is confronted by the federalized National Guard	**12** 1903- 3,000 Chicago hotel workers on strike 1963- Medgar Evers, 37, murdered in front of his home in Jackson, Mississippi 1967- Supreme Court rules laws banning racial intermarriages unconstitutional	**13** ○ 1966- Supreme Court hands down the Miranda Decision 1978- Proposition 13, a California constitutional amendment reducing property taxes by 57 percent, is approved by a large majority (65 percent) of the state's voters	**14** 1827- Journeymen House Carpenters of Philadelphia shock employers by demanding 10-hour day 1907- Norway grant women the vote 1913- S. Africa passes Immigration Act, restricts entry and free movement of Asians	**15** 1752- Benjamin Franklin flies his kite in a thunder storm 1903- Floods follow sudden cloudburst in Oregon, 500 dead 1955- The United States stages its first nationwide civil defense exercise, called Operation Alert	**16** 1936- Olympic National Park created 1987- N.Y. jury acquits Bernhard Goetz of attempted murder the subway shooting of 4 black youths he said were going to rob him. He was convicted of illegal weapon possession	**17** 1775- Black soldiers fought at Battle of Bunker Hill and Greed's hill 1963- Supreme Court rules that no state or locality may require recitation of the Lord's Prayer or verses from bible in public schools
18 1907- George Bernard Shaw and Mark Twain meet in London 1954- CIA backed military force invades Guatemala from Honduras 1968- Supreme Court banned racial discrimination in sale and rental of housing	**19** 1862- United States Congress passes act prohibiting slavery in the territories 1912- United States government adopts the eight-hour day for all federal employees 1917- Great Britain gives the vote to women over thirty	**20** 1967- Muhammad Ali convicted of violating Selective Service Act by refusing induction into armed services 1954- UN Security Council calls for cessation of hostilities in Guatemala, asks nations to not aid attacking invaders	**21** 1964- Three civil rights workers disappear in Philadelphia, Mississippi while conducting a black voter registration drive. The 3 men are Andrew Goodman, age 21, James Chaney, age 21, and Henry Schwerner, age 24	**22** 1936- Congress passes act granting the Virgin Islands, a U.S. territory, the right to elect its own legislature 1964- US Supreme Court rules the book "Tropic of Cancer" may not be banned 1970 - 18 year-olds receive right to vote	**23** 1947- House of Representatives overrides Truman's veto and enacts the infamous Tart-Hartley Act 1964- The burned empty station wagon of the three missing civil rights workers found near Philadelphia, Mississippi	**24** 1647- Mistress Margaret Brent appears at Maryland Assembly to demand both voice and vote for herself. The all-male body was shocked. 1964- Fed. Trade Comm. requires warning labels on cigarette packages
25 1876- The "good guys" won at Little Big Horn 1903- 234 miners killed in Wyoming explosion 1962- Supreme Court rules prayer used in N.Y. public schools described as "nondenominational" is unconstitutional	**26** 1903- Czar Nicholas II rejects petition from President Roosevelt protesting the Russian treatment of Jews 1975- Supreme Court bars the confinement of mental patients against their will, providing they are able to care for themselves	**27** 1833- Prudence Crandall is arrested for conducting an academy for black females at Canterbury, Connecticut. Academy was later closed 1844- Joseph Smith and brother are murdered by a mob in Carthage, Illinois	**28** ● 1962-Christian anti-Communism Crusade rally crowd told "communists will take over US in 20 years" 1962- 3.5 million awarded to blacklisted John Henry Faulk. Aware, Inc. linked him to a Communist conspiracy	**29** 1946- In an attempt to stamp out alleged terrorism, British arrest 2,718 Jews in Palestine 1972- U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was cruel and unusual punishment which violated the 8th Amendment	**30** 1912- Belgian workers strike to demand universal suffrage 1958- Supreme Court reversed lower court decision to uphold $100,000 contempt fine imposed by Alabama on NAACP for refusing to divulge membership	"You could get along swell if you let the boss slap you on the behind and feel you up." Anna Novak, Chicago packinghouse worker, 1937

★ *"The song of freedom must prevail"* ★

Paul Robeson